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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities in the Frankfurt/Oder, Fuerstenwalde, Prenzlau and 50X1-HUM
Beeskow Areas

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 18 October 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. At 1800 on 20 September 1954, 13 trucks towing 7 x 37 AA guns and 6 artillery pieces, probably AT guns of 57 mm. entered the Artillerie Kaserne (4442) at Frankfurt/Oder.

At about 0200 on 24 September, 10 T-34 tanks came from the direction of the Frankfurt/Oder railroad station and drove toward Westkreuz.

At about 1000 and 2100 on 26 September, 13 SP guns [redacted] and another 12 SP guns respectively drove from the Frankfurt/Oder railroad station to the Horn Kaserne (4445).¹

2. Between 1000 and 1800 on 26 September, ammunition and billeting equipment were transported from the Artillerie Kaserne to the Frankfurt/Oder railroad station on trucks [redacted]

A departure and entraining of troops and weapons was not observed. Since all windows of the installation were lighted after dusk, the Artillerie Kaserne was apparently occupied to capacity.²

3. Between 24 and 30 September, railroad cars with billeting equipment and escort personnel were daily unloaded at the Fuerstenwalde freight station.

At 2230 on 25 September, three columns, each of a jeep and eight sidecar motorcycles with soldiers carrying full field pack, drove toward the Pionier Kaserne (4502) at Fuerstenwalde.

On the morning of 28 September, numerous trucks carrying at least ten steel pontons, planks and squared lumber came from the direction of the freight station and drove toward the Pionier Kaserne (4502).

On 30 September, heavy bridge construction material was seen on the ramp of the freight station. On the same day, the Pionier Kaserne (4502) was occupied by 400 to 500 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets.³

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4. On 30 September, the barracks installation on Braunsdorfer Strasse (4501) was occupied by about 700 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. Several trucks repeatedly carried billeting equipment to the installation.³

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5. On 27 and 28 September, groups of 10 to 30 soldiers with suitcases arrived at Fuerstenwalde on all regular trains from the direction of Frankfurt/Oder. The soldiers were escorted by officers. Numerous small groups of soldiers who wore dress uniforms and carried suitcases went to the Pionier Kaserne on the same days.⁴

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6. Between 6 and 13 September, T-34 tanks [redacted] T-34/85 tanks [redacted] JS-2 tanks [redacted] and JSU-122 [redacted] were seen at the barracks installation northwest of Berliner Strasse (4741) at Prenzlau and on the training ground on Sternhagener Weg.⁵

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7. At 0530 on 17 September, JS-2 tanks [redacted] were loaded at the Prenzlau freight station on a train which left toward Templin. The tanks came from the caserne northwest of Berliner Strasse (4741).

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At 0550 on 20 September, a troop train was loaded with about 200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 3 JS-2 tanks, including [redacted] 1 repair shop truck, 2 trucks and 1 ambulance. The troops drove from the caserne northwest of Berliner Strasse (4741) to the Prenzlau freight station. At 0830, the train left toward Templin. [redacted]

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8. Between 6 and 27 September, the barracks installation southeast of Berliner Strasse (4742) at Prenzlau was vacant. Fatigue details were engaged in repair work. Craftsmen stated that the troops were expected to return on 1 October. The officers' residences on Thorner Strasse were again occupied and the officers' store was opened.⁷

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9.

10. On and after 25 September, the Reiter Kaserne (4041) at Beeskow was again occupied to capacity. The arrival of the troops was not observed. On 26 September, numerous soldiers who were previously observed were seen in town. They wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.⁹

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11. On 26 September, observations on the Spree River between Beeskow and Rassmannsdorf indicated that a field exercise of engineer troops together with tank units had been conducted in this sector during the previous days. Numerous tank tracks were seen along the banks and an empty bivouac with still smoldering fires was observed on the Spree River upstream from Rassmannsdorf. Local residents stated that much activity by Soviet troops was seen during the previous days and that all lanes and roads were rather heavily damaged.¹⁰

1. [redacted] Comment. The observation confirms the return of the 7th Gds Mecz Div from the fall maneuvers which were held in the area south of Lieberose. [redacted] The troops which entered the Artillery Kaserne (4442) were contingents of the 32d AAA Div which possibly also participated in the above maneuvers. AT guns, however, are not stationed at the Artillerie Kaserne.

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2. **Comment.** Prior to 26 September 1954, no observations indicated the entraining of trucks or a transfer of soldiers and heavy weapons of the 32d AAA Div. The occupation of the Artillerie Kaserne (4442) on the evening of 26 September 1954 also indicates no entraining of troops or vehicles at that time.

3. **Comment.** The observations confirm a previous report which indicated that components of the 7th Gds Mecz Div from the Lieberose troop training grounds were also to return to Fuerstenwalde on and after 27 September 1954. According to the present report, the 5th Gds Mtrcl Bn and 122d Gds Engr Bn of the 7th Gds Mecz Div returned to their home station at the Pionier Kaserne (4502) in Fuerstenwalde.

4. **Comment.** The report indicates that the first replacements arrived at Fuerstenwalde on 27 and 28 September 1954. The soldiers wearing dress uniforms [] probably discharges.

5. **Comment.** Contingents of the 25th Tk Div still remained at Prenzlau, while the bulk of the division was believed to be stationed at the Templin troop training grounds.

6. **Comment.** [] tanks of the 83d Gds Hv Tk SP Regt were loaded on 17 September 1954. They probably moved to the Templin troop training grounds. The tanks loaded on 20 September belonged to a tank detail of the unidentified tank training battalion of the 25th Tk Div. [] the tank detail was dispatched to the Magdeburg railroad district on the troop train [] and probably went to firing practices on Letzling Heath. On 27 September 1954, the same tank detail passed through the Rathenow railroad station toward the east probably after termination of firing practices.

7. **Comment.** The observations indicate that the troops will soon return to their posts.

8. []

9. **Comment.** After termination of the fall maneuvers of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, the 468th Gds Mort Regt of the division probably returned to Beeskow.

10. **Comment.** The return movement of the 10th Gds Tk Div which began from the Beeskow and Grunow railroad stations on about the evening of 25 September 1954 indicates that the maneuver of the division terminated in the Beeskow - Rassmannsdorf area.

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